

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
FOURTH SERIES

VOL. XIX, No. 10, pp. 105-108

JULY 15, 1930

X

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ORIENTAL HERPETOLOGY

IV. HOKUSHU OR YEZO

BY

JOSEPH R. SLEVIN

Curator, Department of Herpetology

Although Hokushu or Yezo Island is second in size of those which constitute Japan proper, it has but a small amphibian and reptile fauna. The species of Sakhalin seem not to have reached Hokushu, with the possible exception of *Rena temporaria*. Most of the species are identical with the reptiles and amphibians of Honshu or Hondo Island, and there can be little doubt that these two islands have been connected. Dunn regards the salamander of this island as distinct from any of the species of Hondo. It seems probable that *Triturus pyrrogaster* does not occur on Hokushu and that *Bufo bufo praetextatus* does, though neither the absence of the one nor the presence of the other is yet certain. *Eumeces*, *Natrix*, *Agkistrodon*, and *Elaphe climacophora*, are not included in our Yezo collections.

July 15, 1930



1. *Hynobius retardatus* Dunn

Our 11 specimens have been studied and recorded by Dunn.¹ They are two (Nos. 35927 and 35928) from Noboribetsu, Iburi Province, collected August 30, 1911, of which No. 35928 is the type, one (No. 25990) collected at Nemuro, Nemuro Province, and eight (Nos. 25982 to 25989) secured at Sapporo, Ishikari Province.

2. *Bufo bufo prætexatus* (Boie)

One young toad (No. 26067), measuring 18 mm. from snout to vent, seems not to differ from specimens from Hondo, but, of course, it is too small to be of much value. It is labeled Sapporo, Ishikari Province, 1910, with a note that this locality is not to be relied on. I presume that this note refers to Sapporo rather than to the island itself, but the presence of a toad on Hokushu cannot yet be positively affirmed.

3. *Hyla aborea japonica* Günther

Twenty-five specimens of this tree-toad were collected on this island in 1910. I have been unable to find any difference between these specimens and others from Hondo. They were secured at the following localities:

- 26042. Fukuyama, Oshima Province.
- 26043 to 26044. Hakodate, Oshima Province.
- 26045 to 26059. Kikonai, Oshima Province.
- 26060 to 26064. Sapporo, Ishikari Province.
- 26065 to 26066. Otaru, Shiribeshi Province.

4. *Rana temporaria* Linnæus

All of our 19 frogs from Yezo belong to this species. No. 25991 has the snout somewhat longer and the web smaller than the others, but as this may be individual variation, I have not referred it to *Rana japonica*. There is a good deal of variation in the size of the inner metatarsal tubercle and in the

¹Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts and Sci., LVIII, No. 13, pp. 476-479.

position of the vomerine teeth. The teeth are mostly between the choanæ in 16012, 25994, 25995, 26002, 26040, and 26041; between and behind in 25998, 25999, 26001, 26003; and behind in 25991, 25992, 25993, 25996, 25997, 26000, 26004, 26005, and 26733. The outer metatarsal tubercle is present in 16012, 25998, 25999, 26001, 26002, 26003, 26004, and 26041; it is absent in 25991, 25992, 25993, 25994, 25995, 25996, 25997, 26000, 26005, 26040, and 26733. The dorsolateral glandular ridge flares out anteriorly toward the tympanum in all of these nineteen specimens. The throats are without definite dark spots. The specimens were collected as follows:

- 16012. Hakodate, Oshima Province.
- 25991 to 25998. Otaru, Shiribeshi Province, 1910.
- 25999 to 26002. Mororan, Ihuri Province, 1910.
- 26003 to 26005. Sapporo, Ishikari Province, 1910.
- 26040. Otaru, Shiribeshi Province, 1910.
- 26041. Fukushima, Oshima Province, 1910.
- 26733. Hakodate, Oshima Province, September 15, 1910.

5. *Takydromus tachydromoides* (Schlegel)

Fourteen lizards of this species from Yezo seem not to differ from those secured on Hondo. They are from three localities, as follows:

- 25967 to 25970. Kikonai, Oshima Province, 1910.
- 25971 to 25976. Otaru, Shiribeshi Province, 1910.
- 25977 to 25980. Sapporo, Ishikari Province, 1910.

6. *Elaphe quadrivirgata* (Boie)

We have five snakes of this species from Yezo, where they were collected as follows:

- 25981. Sapporo, Ishikari Province, 1910.
- 26728 to 26729. Mororan, Ihuri Province, September 10, 1910.
- 26730 to 26731. Kikonai, Oshima Province, 1910.

No. 25981 is jet black everywhere except on the labials, chin and throat. The others are of the usual light coloration. The scale counts are given below.

No.	Sex	Scale Rows	Gastrosteges	Urosteges	Anal	Supra-labials	Infra-labials	Pre-oculars	Post-oculars	Temporals
25981	♀	19	191	75c	2	8-8	10-10	2-2	3-3	2+3-2+3
26728	♀	19	193	75c	2	8-8	10-10	2-2	2-2	2+2-2+2
26729	♀	19	199	81c	2	8-8	10-10	2-2	2-2	2+3-2+3
26730	♂	19	203	88c	2	8-8	10-10	2-2	3-3	2+2-2+2
26731	♂	19	201	86c	1	8-8	10-9	2-1	2-2	2+3-2+3

If we combine with these figures the counts given by Dr. Stejneger of three Yezo specimens, we get the following averages: Gastrosteges: four males 200.7, three females 194.3; 1 juvenile 198; eight specimens 198. Urosteges: four males 85; three females 77; 1 juvenile 78; eight specimens 80. The average counts for the other Japanese islands are higher, those of Hondo being: Gastrosteges: nineteen males 205; eighteen females 203.2; thirty-seven specimens 204.2. Urosteges: fifteen males 87.6; eighteen females 82.1; thirty-three specimens 84.6. If larger series from Yezo confirm these figures, it may be best to use the name *Elaphe quadrivirgata bilineata* (Hallowell) for the snakes of Yezo.